

\$100  
Prize

## MARRIAGE MADE EASY.

For Being  
a Bride.

**M**R. LOUIS MORGENTHAU, of New York City, has established a bureau for the encouragement of matrimony.

It isn't a marriage bureau. He doesn't introduce people and he won't have anything to do with a young woman who was not already engaged before she even heard of his bureau. If a young woman is engaged, however, and if she is an orphan, and if she is poor, and if her sweetheart is poor, too, Mr. Morgenthau and his bureau are waiting for her—sweetheart, poverty and all. He will give her a dowry of \$100 and a big wedding, and he'll dance at the wedding himself with all the heart imaginable.

Here's what Mr. Morgenthau has to say about his bureau and what he wants to do with it:

**T**HIS society has been founded for the purpose of giving poor orphan girls dower, thus aiding them to marriage. Its objects are purely philanthropic, as no conditions are attached to the obtaining of this dower. But it will be accorded only to those girls who upon investigation are found worthy and deserving. The circumstances of the applicants' future husbands are also subjected to a close inquiry, in order to preclude unworthy specula-

**I** AM a married woman now, with a home of my own, all because I happened one day to see a little notice in one of the papers that "an honest, respectable girl could get a dowry of \$100 if she would apply to Mr. Morgenthau, No. 178 West Seventy-second street." When I first saw the notice I had been engaged several years to a young carpenter. He always had steady employment, as I did, for the matter of that, but we both had our mothers to support, and unless we could get money enough ahead to rent a bigger flat and furnish it, and move the old people, we could never hope to get married.

When Mr. Hoffman came to see me, the evening after I read the notice, it was Sunday—and he always came Sundays—we talked the matter over and decided that we would try for \$100. The money meant a chance to get married and have a little happiness before we were worked out old people.

It all came right and we were married February 23, and now we are independent in our own home. We both work and earn money to support us comfortably, and our mothers are much happier, for they keep each other company when we are at work, and it costs less to run one house than two.

I wish all the poor girls who haven't a dollar ahead in the world, and are missing a chance of happiness, knew about the dowry association and how much it has done for me. And it never cost me a cent. They just gave the \$100 as though it were five cents, or an apron, and said: "Bertha, we trust



"Where are you going, my pretty maid?"  
"To the Marriage Fund Bureau, sir," she said.

"What will you do there, my pretty maid?"  
"Get one hundred dollars, sir," she said.

tions on the part of unscrupulous people.

Any fatherless girl, without regard to creed or nationality, has a perfect right to apply for the dower, but it must be understood that the applicants must be engaged at the time of making their application, as this institution is not to be mistaken for a matrimonial agency. The aim of the society is to assist poor but deserving young couples who are anxious to get married in making a start, and helping them to get up a little home.

Besides receiving the dower, the happy recipients also enjoy the distinction of having their wedding celebrated in a manner that, under ordinary circumstances, these poor girls could never dream of. Concerts, entertainments, music, dancing, etc., and all this absolutely free to them; and not only that, but by becoming the recipients of the dower and being married under the auspices of the society, these girls should consider themselves particularly honored, because all the world will know that they have gained all this by having led an honest life.

The idea for the formation of this society was in my mind for many years. A similar one was founded by me about twenty-three years ago, but for the benefit of Jewish orphan girls only. Owing to differences of opinion among the supporters of that scheme, I saw myself reluctantly obliged to give up my well meant idea. In 1888 I conceived the idea of founding another Orphan Dowry Society, which should extend its benefits to girls of all creeds and nationalities, which idea has now become an actual fact.

The marriages take place on the birthday anniversaries of people who during their lives have distinguished themselves by good deeds, and who have done something for mankind at large. All those in need of such assistance as offered by the Non-Sectarian Orphan Dowry Society are earnestly requested to send in their applications or apply personally to the secretary, Mrs. Louise Lehnert, who will be very glad to give any additional information requested.

LOUIS MORGENTHAU.

There have been two marriages in the society.

Here is what one of the brides says about the bureau and her bureau marriage:

you'll be happy," and, indeed, I am, as much so as they could wish, and all because of their goodness.

BERTHA HOFFMAN.

Mrs. Mary Kroener, the other bureau bride, says:

**M**Y getting \$100 for a marriage dowry was all a matter of chance. When I went to work for Mr. Morgenthau in this factory I knew nothing about the dowry, or that he had offered to give one. The first time I heard anything about it he said to me one day: "Mary, don't you want some money to get married and set up housekeeping?"

I thought, of course, he was joking, and, being engaged and proud of it, I said: "Indeed, I have a young man, if that is what you mean, sir, and we would like well enough to be married and have a home of our own. But my young man is poor, and I have to work to support my mother. If I had money enough to send her back to Germany and furnish a few rooms, we would be married soon enough."

And then Mr. Morgenthau explained about his wish to help respectable girls to marry, and told me I should have \$100 if my references and those of Mr. Kroener proved us worthy. As soon as he found out that my young man was steady and honest, he gave me the money to send my mother back to my people, and we were married March 4 by Alderman Jeroloman.

I have not spent all the money yet, such a great sum as that. I bought some articles of furniture for my little home, and the rest is safely in the bank against a time of need. Of course, I am as happy as can be, and I don't mind saying I owe it all to the dowry. I might be working in the factory yet, with never a bit of a chance for a home and husband, if it hadn't been for the \$100.

MARY KROENER.

Mr. Morgenthau has decided to marry off four couples at once next time. On May 11 there will be, he hopes, a Protestant, a Catholic and a Jewish bride. The fourth bride will be the daughter of a Mason. He has prepared an elaborate programme for the occasion. In the theatre of the Terrace Garden a concert will be given, at which prominent artists will appear, and following the ceremony will be a ball.

What all these young people who can't save money enough for a wedding are going to do when the christenings come along no one connected with the Dowry Bureau seems to think important enough for consideration.